Remarks/Arguments

With reference to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2006 and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 15, 2006, Applicants offer the following remarks.

Claims 1-11, 16, and 20-22 were pending. Claims 16 and 2-22 were elected for examination (claims 1-11 were withdrawn).

Claim 22 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for being of improper dependent form and has been canceled.

Claims 16 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 16 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claims 16 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Barr, Programming Embedded Systems in C and C++.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barr, Programming Embedded Systems in C and C++. Claim 22 has been canceled.

Discussion

The Rejections under 35 USC 101 and 112.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to conform to standard English, and standard computer science usage. This specifically includes changing "objective data files" to "object data files" (as in "source files" and "object files").

The output is also now claimed as "text" output, see numbered paragraphs [0181]-[0182]-

> [0181] The format of the object file called herein may be any specific text format or the unified data format in a network such as XML, according to the user's requirement.
>
> [0182] The corresponding relationship built up by format mapping may comprise many groups of format mapping correspondence relationship with respect to many types of the output formats, according to the requirement of the output text formats. Each group defines the correspondence between the data units to be located and certain specific object file. Then many types of outputs may be generated when necessary.

which fully support the characterization of the product as text files.

Accordingly, it is respectfully that the claims now define patentable subject matter under 35 USC 101, and that the objections and rejections under 35 USC 112 have been obviated.

The Rejections Under 35 USC 102 and 103

Applicants' claimed invention is a data transformation method and apparatus, for transforming data in "source" first data files having first formats into data in object "second" data files having second formats. By way of comparison and contrast, the cited portion of Barr, Programming Embedded Systems describes linking. Linking is understood in the software development art generally, and in Barr, Chapter 3, as the creation of a single executable file from multiple object files. In this step, it is common that the linker will "complain" about undefined functions. That is, then the linker will look through multiple files and try to find references for the functions that weren't defined. As Barr writes

> The output of a linker is a new object file that contains all of the code and data from the input object files and is in the same object file format. It does this by merging the **text**, **data**, and **bss** sections of the input files. So when the linker is finished is finished executing, all of the machine language code from all of the

> input object files will be in the **text** section of the new file, and all of the initialized and uninitialized variables will reside in the new **data** and **bss** sections, respectively.
>
> While the linker is in the process of merging the section contents, it is also on the lookout for unresolved symbols. For example, if one object file contains an unresolved reference to a variable named **foo** and a variable with that same name is declared in one of the other object files, the linker will match them up. The unresolved reference will be replaced with a reference to the actual variable. In other words, if **foo** is located at offset 14 of the output data section, its entry in the symbol table will now contain that address.

While Barr then goes on to describe forming relocatables in embedded systems, Barr, Programming Embedded Systems, totally fails to teach, suggest, or describe Applicants' claimed invention of

> A data transformation method for transforming data in original source data files and having a first data format into data in object data files having a second data format by the steps of:
>
> (a). determining a data type and data location for the data in the original data files;
>
> (b). determining correspondence between the original data files and formats of the object data files;
>
> (c). determining locations of the original data files based on location descriptions on one or more data units.
>
> (d). extracting the original data files;
>
> (e) transforming the extracted data into output text object data files based on correspondence between data units to be located and specific formats of the ~~objective~~ object data files and
>
> (f) outputting the text object data files.

In conclusion, Barr neither teaches nor suggest the transformation method and apparatus claimed by Applicants, but, instead teaches a method of linking to form relocatable files.

Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims describe an invention that is properly allowable to the Applicants.

If any issues remain unresolved despite the present amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number shown below to arrange for a telephonic interview before issuing another Office Action.

Applicants would like to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for a thorough and competent examination and for courtesies extended to Applicants' Attorney.

Respectfully Submitted

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